

We Claim:

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A method for processing transactions, comprising:  
operating a rules server, wherein said rules server comprises a rulebase, wherein said  
rulebase comprises one or more rules;  
associating at least one rule of said one or more rules with a start time and an end time;  
receiving a transaction request;  
determining a transaction time for said transaction request; and  
determining a set of one or more effective rules in said one or more rules for said  
transaction request, wherein said transaction time for said transaction request is  
after said start time associated with each of said set of one or more effective rules,  
and said transaction time for said transaction request is before said end time  
associated with each of said one or more effective rules.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
processing said transaction request with said set of one or more effective rules.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining a transaction time for said  
transaction request is performed once each time said transaction request is received.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining a transaction time for said  
transaction request is performed repeatedly after a specified length of time.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein said rulebase contains one or more rules that are not in said set of one or more effective rules.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said start time and said end time is specified by an administrator through a graphical user interface.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said transaction time is determined by an administrator.
8. A computer-readable medium having thereon instructions for performing a process for processing transactions, said process comprising:  
operating a rules server, wherein said rules server comprises a rulebase, wherein said rulebase comprises one or more rules;  
associating at least one rule of said one or more rules with a start time and an end time;  
receiving a transaction request;  
determining a transaction time for said transaction request; and  
determining a set of one or more effective rules in said one or more rules for said transaction request, wherein said transaction time for said transaction request is after said start time associated with each of said set of one or more effective rules, and said transaction time for said transaction request is before said end time associated with each of said one or more effective rules.
9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, further comprising the step of:  
processing said transaction request with said set of one or more effective rules.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein said step of determining a transaction time for said transaction request is performed once each time said transaction request is received.
11. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein said step of determining a transaction time for said transaction request is performed repeatedly after a specified length of time.
12. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein said rulebase contains one or more rules that are not in said set of one or more effective rules.
13. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein said start time and said end time is specified by an administrator through a graphical user interface.
14. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein said transaction time is determined by an administrator.

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